The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

NEWS RELEASE

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers
Honours Director from the Canadian Council of Minister of Education, Canada.

OTTAWA, December 7, 2007 – A prominent contributor to official language education was honoured for his outstanding achievements at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), held in Ottawa November 29th.

Mr. Boyd Pelley, Director of Official-Languages Programs at the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), was presented with the CASLT Lifetime Membership Award for his leadership and vision in promoting linguistic duality and second official language education on a national scale.

Mr. Pelley has had a very active career in the area of bilingualism and official language education. A native of St. John's, Newfoundland, he taught French as a second language in St. John's and in Montreal. Following six years of teaching experience, he became a curriculum consultant in French as a second language with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education, where he worked until joining the CMEC in 1973.

His arrival at the CMEC coincided with the launch of two very popular and very successful national language programs: the Second Language Bursary Program, today known as Explore/Destination Clic, and the Official Language Monitor Program, now referred to as Accent/Odyssey. "Boyd instigated these initiatives and has nurtured them throughout his career. More than 225,000 students have in fact participated in these programs over the last thirty years, and I would be very curious to know how many of these participants have in fact become language teachers in the school system across Canada," stated Hilaire Lemoine from the CASLT Board of Directors.

"Teachers thought the world of him and they admired his professionalism" said Sister Eileen Sesk, a former CASLT President, her comments being relayed by Valerie Pike of the CASLT Board of Directors. "Mr. Pelley is seen as a visionary, a go-getter and a proud Newfoundlander who has contributed nationally to education in such an exemplary fashion."

Mr. Pelley will be retiring from the CMEC in early 2008 after 35 years of service. He joins a distinguished list of Lifetime Membership Award recipients who have been honoured by the CASLT for outstanding service.

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators.

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